



Serial No. 10/658,739

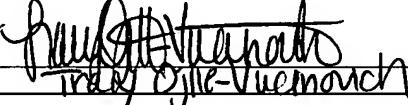
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Applicant: | ZIMMEL ET AL. | Examiner: | UNKNOWN |
| Serial No.: | 10/658,739 | Group Art Unit: | 2874 |
| Filed: | SEPTEMBER 8, 2003 | Docket No.: | 2316.1794US01 |
| Title: | RUGGEDIZED FIBER OPTIC CONNECTION | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 18, 2004.

By: 
Name: Tracy Dyke-Vuennouch

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of the U.S. patents listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided, as this application was filed after June 30, 2003. Copies of the "Other Documents" listed on Form 1449 are enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

Stratos Lightwave™ Brochures are undated, but are admitted as prior art as of the date of filing of the present application.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 18, 2004



Alan R. Stewart
Reg. No. 47,974
ARS:PLStov

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date Mailed: March 18, 2004

Sheet 1 of 1

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|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
|  FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number: | Application Number: |
| | 2316.1794US01 | 10/658,739 |
| | Applicant: ZIMMEL ET AL. | |
| | Filing Date: 09/08/2003 | Group Art Unit: 2874 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|--|--------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | | | | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | Stratos Lightwave™ Brochure, "HQLC Hermaphroditic Butt Joint Connector," 2 pages (Undated) |
| | | Stratos Lightwave™ Brochure, "HDLC Hermaphroditic Butt Joint Connector," 2 pages (Undated) |
| | | Delphi Connection Systems, "Harsh Environment Hermaphroditic Fiber Optic Connectors," 16 pages (© 2002) |

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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.